

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070289

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN VIEWS ON CSCE/ MBFR

VIENNA FOR USREP MBFR

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN EMBASSY OFFICER HERE, ROMANIAN EMBASSY IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE VERY INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AT WORKING LEVEL IN WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE IF USG MIGHT ACCEDE TO A PROPOSAL TO LINK CSCE AND MBFR VIA A " BALKAN MBFR" DISCUSSION. DEPTOFF AVOIDED RESPONDING TO THIS FISHING EXPEDITION, BUT, SPEAKING ON PERSONAL BASIS, SOUGHT TO CONVEY THAT ABSENCE OF RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE THAT PROPOSAL
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MIGHT WIN FAVOR HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. ROMANIAN FIRST SECRETARY MITRAN INVITED DEPTOFF TO LUNCHEON AT EMBASSY APRIL 11 TO EXPLORE " AT INTELLECTUAL LEVEL" WHAT USG REACTION MIGHT BE SHOULD ROMANIANS PROPOSE AT CURRENT HELSINKI AND VIENNA TALKS THAT CSCE- MBFR TIE SOUGHT BY ROMANIA BE ACCOMPLISHED VIA SOME DISCUSSION IN BOTH NEGOTIATIONS OF BALKAN FORCE REDUCTIONS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT SOUNDINGS WERE BEING TAKEN ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUCHAREST. MITRAN ARGUED THAT IT MIGHT BE " EASIER" FOR SOVIETS AND US TO ACCEPT CSCE- MBFR LITERN EUROPE.

THERE ARE REPORTS IN NATO CIRCLES IN EUROPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ALSO MOVING TWO INFANTRY DIVISIONS FROM THE USSR TO CENTRAL EUROPE. THIS REINFORCEMENT, WHICH COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, WOULD RAISE THE NUMBER OF SOVIET DIVISIONS IN THE AREA TO 33, THE HIGHEST FIGURE IN EIGHT YEARS. MOSCOW WOULD THUS BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA ON TROOP REDUCTION WITH ITS FORCES AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN THEY WERE ON JANUARY 31, WHEN PROCEDURAL TALKS BEGAN.

THE UNITED STATES IS REPRESENTING NATO AND THE SOVIET UNION IS SPEAKING FOR THE WARSAW PACT. THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS ARGUED FOR THE LAST MONTH THAT HUNGARY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM TALKS ON FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS HAVE TOLD JONATHAN DEAN, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, THAT SOVIET FORCES IN HUNGARY OF TWO ARMORED AND TWO INFANTRY DIVISIONS, OR ABOUT 38,000 MEN, ARE STATIONED THERE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE WARSAW PACT'S SOUTHERN FLANK IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA.

THE SOVIET DELEGATIONS HAVE USED TWO OTHER SLIGHTLY CONTRADICTIONARY ARGUMENTS AT VIENNA. ONE IS THAT RUSSIAN FORCES ARE IN HUNGARY, INSTEAD OF RUMANIA FURTHER TO THE EAST, BECAUSE RUMANIA, ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF THE WARSAW PACT, HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT SOVIET DEPLOYMENT ON HER TERRITORY. THE SECOND REASON IS THAT THE SOVIET HIGH COMMAND BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN STRONG FORCES NEAR THE FRONTIER BETWEEN HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA.

THE NATO POWERS REJECT THESE VIEWS. THEY HOLD THAT THE
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SOVIET DIVISIONS IN HUNGARY AND THE HUNGARIAN ARMY AND AIR
FORCE MUST BE INCLUDED IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS FOR FORCE
REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE BECAUSE THESE FORCES COULD
BE DEPLOYED AS EASILY TO THE WEST AS TO THE SOUTH. UNQTE.

ROGERS

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